[Translation]

Cultivable Land

3283. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 30 per cent of total cultivable land is used for cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government have formulated any programme for extension of cultivable land;

(d) if so, the details therefor; and

(e) the additional cultivable land likely to be brought under cultivation as a result of the implementation of the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per land use statistics, 1994-95 (latest), the total cultivated land constituted 85% of total cultivable area in the country.

(c) and (d) The Government is implementing the following schemes to bring more agricultural land under cultivation:

(i) Centrally sponsored scheme for Reclamation of Alkali (Usar) Soils;

(ii) Uttar Pradesh Sodic Land Reclamation Project with World Bank Assistance; and

(iii) EEC assisted project for Reclamation and Development of Alkali Soils in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(e) An area of 4.79 lakh hectares of alkali land has so far been reclaimed with effect from the 7th plan. Another 45,000 hectares of Sodic land and 15,000 hectares of alkali land is targetted to be reclaimed in the above mentioned World Bank and EEC assisted projects respectively by 2001.

Assistance from World Bank

3284. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan taken by the Government from the World Bank as financial assistance for taking measures to control pollution caused by small and large scale industrial units during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the terms and conditions on which loan was taken from the World Bank; and

(c) the details of the industrial units which were provided financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) A total of Rs. 108 crores has been provided by the World Bank as credit on general IDA terms. The financial pattern for the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) consists of 20 per cent promoters' contribution and a grant from the Central Government of 25 per cent subject to a matching contribution from the State Government. The remaining amount is available as a loan from the Industrial Development Bank of India, which channelises the World Bank assistance for this component of the project.

(c) The financial assistance has so far been provided for 17 Demonstration projects. 11 projects have been approved so far under the Technical Assistance component. Assistance has also been provided to 71 CETPs in various parts of the country which are at various stages of construction/commission.

[English]

Security Around Refineries

3285. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have directed the Government of Assam to beef up security around the oil refineries in view of the threat by the ULFA militants to destroy the oil refineries;

(b) if so, the kind of assistance rendered by the Union Government to protect the oil refineries; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a report to that effect.